developing countries. In this context, it is important to strengthen economic cooperation with NAM and also to pursue interests of its member countries by agreeing on common positions in the global arena.

India is actively engaged within NAM on these issues. The Government utilized the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non Aligned Movement (NAM-C-B) in Malaysia in May, 2006 to actively pursue the objectives of closer economic cooperation with NAM countries and will continue these deliberations at the forthcoming NAM Summit due to be held in Cuba in September, 2006.

_ The Government has set up a Special Committee to deliberate on how to bring the focus of the NAM on economic and social issues relevant to the developing countries as well as South-South Cooperation. The Special Committee is headed by Dr. Arjun K. Sengupta, Chairman, National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

Talks with Nepal

317. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the topics on which talks were held between the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal in June last when the Nepalese Prime Minister visited New Delhi;

(b) the decisions arrived at during the talks;

(c) whether any financial and other assistance has since been given/ promised by India to Nepal, consequent to the talk; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The Prime Ministers of India and Nepal shared their views and assessments of the situation in both the countries. They agreed that the restoration of democracy in Nepal provided a historic opportunity for a qualitative enhancement of bilateral relations between the two countries. They also agreed that the success of democracy lay in creating an atmosphere free from violence and coercion, and respect for the rule of law.

Our Prime Minister conveyed India's readiness to render all possible assistance to Nepal for accelerating economic rehabilitation and development, in accordance with the priorities and wishes of the Government of Nepal. Government of India, *inter alia,* expressed its willingness to expedite progress on long-term mega infrastructure projects, extend immediately a one-time grant of Rs. 100 crores to the budget of Government of Nepal, offered a soft credit line of US $ 100 million for the execution of infrastructure development projects, enhancement of its 'Aid to Nepal' budget for the current financial year from 65 crore to Rs. 150 crore and waive the dues outstanding as on June 9,2006 owed by the Government of Nepal to the Government of India on account of defence purchases

Foreign Secretary's visit to Tokyo

318. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the topics discussed between Governments of India and Japan in June last when India's Foreign Secretary visited Tokyo;

(b) the decisions arrived at as a result of the discussions; and

(c) the follow up action, if any, so far taken by the two Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There was no visit by the Foreign Secretary to Tokyo in June.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SCO and CICA summits

319. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the newly emerged Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) and the Conference on Interaction and the four-years old Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) have potential to emerge as effective forum of countries in the Asia region;